

## REMSEN GAS BILL HEARING.

## GOV. ODELL LISTENS TO ARGUMENTS ON THE MEASURE.

Advocates of the bill tell him that it would be to violate Home Rule ideas after Mayor McCellan had approved it—speeches against it.

ALBANY, May 3.—Arguments were heard before Gov. Odell to-day on the Remsen East River gas bill. John A. Garver, the attorney for the East River and Consolidated gas companies, reviewed the reported objections to the bill and endeavored to show that they were founded upon surmise, suspicion and ignorance.

Alexander Williams, F. B. Thurber and F. W. Curtis, who said they represented the people and the gas consumers, also favored the bill.

Among those who appeared in opposition were Julius Henry Cohen, Robert Van Iderstine and Travis H. Whitney, representing the Citizens' Union; Charles Sprague Smith and Edward B. Whitney, the People's Institute; James L. Conway and August Wiggers, of the United Real Estate Owners' Association; Henry W. Goodrich, of the City Club and H. D. Dumont and Edward S. Bronson, Jr., representing the Merchants' Association.

Mr. Whitney insisted that the bill involved a valuable grant of a public franchise in perpetuity without compensation to the city, and that the gas company would go to the Board of Aldermen for the rights required, instead of to the Legislature.

The arguments for and against the bill followed the same lines as at the hearing before Mayor McCellan. Mr. Cohen said:

"The Remsen bill is a fair illustration of the difference of opinion that exists in our community regarding franchises. The policy of the public, who have no interest in franchises holding corporations, is embodied in our Charter—short terms, bidding, no perpetual franchises, hold on for the public to what few rights remain in the streets of our city and in her subsoil. For years the rights of the public have been neglected. The public could not afford to pay, as could the companies, to safeguard the interests of its side of the dealing. But at last the people are aroused, and a bill is introduced and mean to save from the wreck all they can and preserve their rights for the future."

"The Remsen bill, from the company's point of view, is nothing but a piece of good business, desirable legislation to remove 'clouds from titles,' as were the railroad bills introduced by the lawyers for the City Railway Company, and yet, in the interest of fair play, I plead for the decline their requests and to grant those of the gas company. In the minds of the public, if either is entitled to favor at all, certainly the gas companies should not receive the preference."

"Does this company come into court with clean hands? Is it entitled to legislative favors without terms? Ask the people in New York city who pay gas bills. This is the first time they have been allowed to express themselves, and that is why they are aroused. This is no mere prejudice against corporations."

Henry W. Goodrich of the City Club had a draft of a bill which he said would give the gas company all it said it desired to accomplish by the bill. It provided for a twenty-five year franchise to be granted according to the provisions of the city Charter, for which compensation would be exacted.

Mr. Van Iderstine insisted that the perpetual franchise which the Remsen bill bestowed would give the Consolidated Gas Company a monopoly in New York city. Mr. Dumont insisted that the measure was against the interests of the gas consumers in New York city.

F. B. De Bevoise and Edward S. Bronson, Jr., representing the Merchants' Association with Mr. Dumont, "The Remsen East River Gas bill," said Mr. Bronson: "The only purpose of giving new life and unquestioned validity to former Long Island City gas franchises, which were outrageous abuses by the Legislature, is to give the company the right to extend into new territory the privileges previously granted, and, above all, to withhold from the public the compensation for which it purports to provide."

"By its terms it concedes that the franchise asked for has value, by ostensibly providing to give compensation therefor. As a matter of fact, the provision relating to compensation is a deceit, and does not properly protect the public. The gas company, which the public shall receive the compensation to which it is entitled and which is seemingly agreed to be paid."

"The East River Gas Company, after having laid pipes and mains under every street in Long Island City, and in such parts of Manhattan and The Bronx as it chooses to occupy, and having connected those pipes and mains with every residence and building in the territory affected, may then turn those mains to one of its subsidiary companies for a nominal price. The gas in that case might be manufactured by such auxiliary company and sold by it to consumers."

"In such case, under the terms of this bill, the city of New York would not receive one cent of compensation for the use of its streets, although the companies would receive immense benefit from such use. This process of juggling in the operation of distributing gas can be extended indefinitely and applied by the East River Gas Company not only to the additional territory in Long Island City, to which it will receive entrance by the Remsen bill, but also to the undeveloped territory in The Bronx, where many miles of gas mains will of necessity be laid in the near future."

Charles Sprague Smith urged that the working people of New York city feel that the men chosen to represent them in public office should not part with any more public franchises without exacting adequate compensation.

Mr. J. A. Garver, counsel for the East River Gas Company, pointed out in his speech that it would be a violation of the principle of home rule for the Governor not to sign the Remsen bill after it had been accepted by the Mayor of New York City. He urged that the New York City organizations represented at the hearing to-day against the bill were not consistent in coming to Albany to ask executive interference when they had their hearing before Mayor McCellan and every point urged here against the bill was made before the Mayor. Mr. Garver declared that the Governor was in duty bound to approve the measure if he followed the spirit of the home rule provision of the Constitution. He declared that the bill had no other object than to permit the company to operate in a broad section of Queens borough, so as to include the Astoria property owned by the company.

Gov. Odell also submitted to the Governor a list of insurance companies, with capital amounting to \$200,000,000, that had petitioned for the bill to become law. He also presented a list of names of men who had withdrawn their opposition to the measure, and a list of men of prominence who favored it.

Gov. Odell at the hearing gave no indication of his probable action on the bill.

**Gas Consumers Protective Association.**

ALBANY, N. Y., May 3.—The Gas Consumers' Protective Association of the City of New York has been incorporated with the Secretary of State, with a capital of \$1,000, to investigate and rectify the complaints of the gas consumers who are subscribers to the association. The directors are Maurice Fitzgerald, Michael D. Fitzgerald and Patrick F. Riordan of New York City.

**Kah' Appears in Good Health.**

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. BERLIN, May 3.—The Emperor, Empress and Crown Prince were present to-day at the unveiling in the Tiergarten of the monument to William I. The Kaiser's healthy appearance and vivacity were generally remarked.

## MIND-READER BONDSMAN

Who Knows the Future and Knows That the Prisoners are Innocent.

A tall man with bushy black hair went to the Essex Market police court yesterday and announced to Magistrate Crane that he desired to give bail for Abram Langner charged with burglary. Langner, seven others, was arrested several days ago in a room where several thousand dollars worth of clothing stolen from an East Side store was found.

"What is your business?" asked the Magistrate.

"I am a mind reader," said the man. "I and Professor Abram Hochman of 160 Livingston street."

"What are you worth?" said the Magistrate.

"Own real estate," said Hochman.

"In your mind?"

"No," said Hochman. "But, listen. I can read the future, and I have read this man's mind and know he is innocent. He was in that room at the time on an innocent errand. I can also read your mind. You will discharge him, while the case comes up before you to-morrow. Therefore, I have no hesitation on going on his bond. If he were guilty, I would know it and I would not bail him."

Hochman was recognized by several persons in the court room as a man of means, and as he offered good security he was accepted.

"I will be here to-morrow," he said, "to show you that my predictions come true."

**TO ABOLISH SWEATSHOPS.**

Gov. Odell Signs the Bill Amending the Tenement House Law.

ALBANY, May 3.—Gov. Odell to-day signed Senator Brackett's tenement house amendments. The articles which manufacture prohibited without a license are, instead of aprons, pocketbooks, slippers, paper boxes and bags.

Instead of a license being required for the apartments of each individual family in a tenement, the tenement house itself is licensed. This will greatly reduce the number of licenses issued by the State Department of Labor to inspect tenement houses to see that work is not going on without a license, to stop work in places where there is contagious disease and to make semi-annual inspections of licensed tenement houses to see that proper sanitary standards are maintained.

A house once licensed will stay licensed if kept in a proper condition, even though its ownership should change hands a number of times. The license will be given to the members of the family residing in each apartment, thus preventing sweatshops in tenements.

**AUTOMOBILE BILLS SIGNED.**

Gov. Odell Approves the Measures Desired by Those Running Machines.

ALBANY, May 3.—The three Hill-Cocks bills desired by the Automobile Association of the State, which codify and revise the existing automobile laws and remove the unjust restrictions of the present laws affecting the operation of automobiles, were signed to-day by Gov. Odell.

These bills aim to give automobiles rights on the roads similar to those always accorded to the horsemen. No person may operate a motor vehicle on a public highway where the territory contiguous thereto is closely built up, at a greater rate than one mile in five minutes, or elsewhere in a city or village at a greater rate than one mile in four minutes, or elsewhere outside of a city or village at a greater rate than one mile in three minutes.

**TO INSPECT THE CANAL.**

Odell's Advisory Board Leaves for Rochester to Examine a New Route.

ALBANY, May 3.—The Board of Advisory Engineers appointed to recommend plans for the 1,000 ton barge canal left here at 4 o'clock this afternoon for Rochester, and to-morrow the members will begin the study of the proposed twenty-five mile canal between Newark, Wayne county, and South Greece, Monroe county, passing through Fairport, Pittsford and Rochester.

On Thursday, Rochester, the board will give a public hearing at the common council chamber to those persons desiring to appear relative to the different routes suggested for the barge canal in and around the city of Rochester.

**PUNISHING AFRICANS.**

British Expedition Burns Six Villages in the Oboho Country.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. BONNY, West Africa, May 3.—Major Trenchard, with a force of 250 men, had an encounter on April 25 with the natives of the Oboho country, seventy-five miles up the Enno River, in southern Nigeria. Six villages were burned and 200 of the natives were killed and wounded. The British lost four native soldiers killed and seven wounded.

The British expedition referred to is one that was sent against the Okpoto tribe, which last December attacked a British patrol and killed two white officers and forty or fifty native troops. The expedition has had some severe fighting.

**RIOT NEAR KISHINEFF.**

Jews at Bender Attacked—Sick Woman Thrown From Window and Killed.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. VIENNA, May 3.—Reports have been received of an anti-Jewish riot on April 30 at Bender, a town in the neighborhood of Kishineff. Windows were smashed, two men and a girl of fifteen were killed and the wife of a furniture dealer, lying in her confinement, was thrown out of a window and then killed.

Cossacks appeared an hour later, but peace was not restored until the commander of the troops, acting under orders from the General at Kishineff, threatened to fire on the mob.

**POPE COMPLAINS TO POWERS.**

Protests Against Slight Put Upon Him by the French President.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. ROME, May 3.—The Pope has complained strongly to the Catholic sovereigns of Europe, through the nuncios, of the slight France put upon him during President Loubet's visit to Rome, in completely ignoring the Vatican and instructing Ambassador Nisard to refrain from visiting the Pope. The abolition of the French Embassy in the Pope is expected.

**PANAMA CANAL SALE COMPLETE.**

Documents Closing the Deal Signed in Paris Yesterday.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PARIS, May 3.—Messrs. Day and Russell, the American representatives, to-day signed the documents completing the purchase of the Panama Canal. Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. will pay the purchase money to the Bank of France for the company.

**Cunard Line's New Turbine Steamers.**

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 3.—The contracts for building the turbine steamers for the Cunard Steamship Company have been placed with Brown of Clydebank and Swan & Hunter of Newcastle. The machinery will be 300 tons lighter than that of reciprocating engines. They will maintain 65,000 indicated horse-power, and the vessels will have a speed of 24½ knots in all weather. Each will have four shafts. The boilers will be of the cylindrical type. The coal consumption will be over 1,000 tons daily. The length of the steamers will be 700 feet.

**Emile Duclaux Dead.**

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PARIS, May 3.—Emile Duclaux, the chemist, is dead.

## TO REORGANIZE RED CROSS.

## A PLAN SUGGESTED TO END THE DISSENSIONS.

If Miss Barton and the Other Officers Agree to It a Temporary Organization Is to Be Formed Until Congress Grants the Society a New Charter.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The dissensions in the American Red Cross are in the way to a settlement, as the result of the plan for reorganization which was submitted to-day to the attorneys for the two sides of the controversy by Senator Proctor, chairman of the committee to investigate the charges made by the remonstrant members.

Assurances have been given from several of them that their resignations will be forthcoming whenever needed, and Senator Proctor has great hopes of bringing about the reorganization which will place the society on a sound footing and bring to an end the bitter dissensions within the body.

The investigation now in progress of the Red Cross management and accounts will be dropped if the proposition is accepted, and the new society will start with a clean sheet. The reorganization plan was prepared at the suggestion of Senator Proctor by former Secretary of State John W. Foster, who was one of the protesting members, and is practically under the lines laid out by the committee of recalcitrants several months ago.

Until a new charter is obtained from Congress next winter the management of the Red Cross is to be in the hands of a governing body of eighteen, six of whom are to be named by President Roosevelt from the different departments of the government; six to be named by the old organization and six by the remonstrants. A temporary chairman is to be selected by the members of the governing body, which, during the interim, is to have complete control of the affairs of the organization, taking the place of the present executive committee, president, secretary, treasurer, etc.

Congress will then be asked to grant a new charter, under which, in addition to the semi-official representation of the governing body, a strict supervision and audit by the War Department of all the receipts and expenditures of the Red Cross for the formation of State Red Cross organizations, auxiliary to the parent body, will be provided. It will also provide for the formation of State Red Cross organizations, auxiliary to the parent body, which members of the governing body, six representatives of the State auxiliaries will be members of the governing board.

In the temporary organization, the President will name six officials of the different departments and the contributing members will name six members. A preliminary meeting of the governing body, chosen by the eighteen governing members, will be held to-morrow. The plan was submitted by Senator Proctor to-day to Leigh Robinson, counsel for the remonstrants, and Gen. John M. Wilson, U. S. A., retired, one of their number, and Attorneys Hopkins and Stebbins, representing the present organization of the Red Cross, and was received with favor. Replies are expected from the two sides by next Friday, and if favorable to the proposed reorganization, a meeting of the Red Cross will be called shortly and the by-laws amended so as to permit the carrying on of its work under the temporary plan until the new charter is granted by Congress.

The conference to-day was preceded by a short hearing by the committee, which was enlivened by a sharp tilt between the opposing counsel as to the professional conduct of Attorney Stebbins of the organization, regarding his alleged interference with the witness Morland.

Morland last week testified to the alleged diversion of the Russian famine fund to purchase the Red Cross farm in Indiana, which hitherto had been supposed to be a donation of Dr. Gardner, and gave other testimony of a startling nature. To-day's session was held to hear testimony in rebuttal and for further cross-examination of Morland, but he did not appear.

Attorney Robinson at the opening of the hearing complained that a member of Miss Barton's household had written Morland expressing a desire that he should come to Glen Echo, where Miss Barton lives, to see some of the records. Morland had gone and found there Attorney Stebbins, counsel for Miss Barton, who had sought to elicit from Morland any other facts in his possession.

Mr. Robinson said he considered this attempt to interfere with his witness an indefensible act. If such a thing had occurred before the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia it would have met with a sharp rebuff from the judge on the bench and disbarment proceedings against the offender would be probable.

Mr. Stebbins repudiated the charge of unprofessional conduct toward Morland. He had gone to Glen Echo, he said, immediately after his arrival from Chicago and found Morland there. Reading Morland's testimony in the papers, he had asked him to disclose to him (Stebbins) the full extent of his knowledge regarding the Red Cross affairs. Morland had refused. He then asked him to go before the investigating committee, but Morland declined. On behalf of Miss Barton he therefore demanded of the committee that Morland be summoned and asked to produce all evidence he had in his possession regarding the matters under investigation.

Senator Proctor inquired of Attorney Robinson why Morland was not present in accordance with the notice he had given and Mr. Robinson said he would produce him to-morrow. Attorney Hopkins then placed in evidence two letters written by Morland to Miss Barton, the first expressing a desire for an interview and the second referring largely to the testimony which he had given before the committee. In the latter Morland wrote:

"I did not produce more than one-quarter of the evidence that I was wanted or that I was in my possession, or rather in the safety deposit vaults here in Washington. I have many letters, some from Dr. G. G. Mason, some from Mr. E. C. Cox, M. C. Manson, chief gunner's mate; C. S. Schepke, gunner's mate."

These are declared to be worthy of "special commendation." Capt. W. S. Cowles, Lieutenant-Commander J. M. Orchard, Lieut. Cleveland Davis, Lieut. W. P. Scott, Lieut. Ralph H. Ellis, Lieut. A. Marshall, Ensign E. C. Wainwright, of the United States ship Cleveland, Midshipman A. G. Caffee, M. Higgins, chief boatswain's mate; G. Crofton, chief machinist; H. E. Elliott, master-at-arms; C. Browster, gun captain; C. Holm, seaman; S. C. Burgess, ship's fitter; W. Gibbons, coxswain; B. Johnson, gunner's mate; M. C. Dacie, ordinary seaman; and W. S. Wells, ordinary seaman.

Admiral Barker's endorsement of the court's report says:

Upon a careful perusal of the proceedings it appears that the navy has a smokeless powder, the properties of which have not been understood either by those using it on board our ships or by those who make and issue it for service. Rapid firing has brought to light some of these hitherto unknown or dimly perceived properties, but an exhaustive investigation in laboratory and on the firing range is still needed. Until the present record target practice is completed, it is believed to be safe to fire to leeward, though somewhat dangerous to fire to windward, on account of so-called "firebacks," or "back flames," it has not been demonstrated that it is dangerous to fire rapidly to leeward as well as to windward. We do at present, but until then it would seem that the limit of quick firing should be reached, for it is now considered absolutely necessary to fire each shot at a target, though the muzzle speed of loading may perhaps be increased after once it is safe to begin the operation.

The disaster was appalling, but it developed heres. History records no more heroic act than that of Morland, who crawled through a hole into the burning magazine to put out the flames.

There are several points brought out in the testimony which deserve special notice by the different bureaus concerned; for example—

First—Exhaustive inquiry as to the nature of the gases given off by smokeless powder which remain in the gun or cartridge cases, and whether or not these gases can be prevented.

Second—Whether it is possible to arrange the interior of the turret so as to separate one from another, and both from the handling room, making accidents from exploding shell or burning powder improbable if not impossible.

Third—Revision of rules for target practice, excluding reports of shell untripped to state whether or not an allowance of time was given for "flare backs," and if so, the amount. At present many of these reports are not clear.

It is probable that the Navy Department will allow the case to end with Admiral Barker's action.

**Hohenlohe's Party Visits Mount Vernon.**

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Prince Hohenlohe, Princess Hohenlohe, Prince Ratibor, Princess Ratibor and the other members of Prince Hohenlohe's party made a visit to Mount Vernon to-day, returning in a special car about noon. The German Princes were deeply impressed with Mount Vernon. They were accompanied to Mount Vernon by the Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Francis B. Loomis.

**Movements of Naval Vessels.**

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The gunboat Wilmington has arrived at Nippoo, China, the gunboat Petrel at Mare Island, the cruiser Detroit at Santo Domingo City, and the supply ship Supply at Midway Island. The battleship Texas, flagship of Rear Admiral Sands, has sailed from Key West for Newport News, and the monitor Florida from Key West for Lambert's Point, Va.

**Real Estate Dealer a Suicide.**

Henry Clark shot himself dead yesterday afternoon at 140 West Sixteenth street, where he boarded. Clark was 25 years old. His friends said that he had morbidly great deal over business and financial troubles. He did a small real estate business in the neighborhood.

## PRAISE FOR MISSOURI'S MEN.

## THREE OF THEM NAMED FOR "EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM."

Admiral Barker, in Approving the Report, Says: "History Records No More Heroic Act Than That of Morland, Who Crawled Into the Burning Magazine."

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The official report of the court of inquiry into the accident on the battleship Missouri during target practice off Pensacola on April 13, resulting in the loss of thirty-three lives, made public to-day by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Darling commends several officers and men by name, and recommends no further action.

Rear Admiral Barker, commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic fleet, in approving the court's decision, pointed out that the tragedy had disclosed that it was unsafe to fire rapidly to leeward, italicizing the word "rapidly," and that while improvements will doubtless be made, until then the limit of quick firing has been reached, and it is necessary to wait a certain time after each shot before loading a gun using the limit of quick firing.

The substance of the report was made public yesterday.

These men are commended for "extraordinary heroism": Acting Gunner R. E. Cox, M. C. Manson, chief gunner's mate; C. S. Schepke, gunner's mate.

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**GIRL PUPILS WERE IN PERIL.**

DREW'S YOUNG LADIES SEMINARY AT CARMEL BURNED.

The Girls Awakened by a Few Teachers and Pupils Just in Time—Destruction of a Beautiful Seminary at Carmel, Cal.—Coolness of Miss Gertrude Johnson.

CARMEL, N. Y., May 3.—Owing to the presence of mind of certain teachers and students, many girls were saved from being burned in a fire which destroyed Drew's Young Ladies' Seminary and buildings adjoining, at Carmel, this morning with a loss of about \$125,000.

Teachers and a score of the girls groped their way through smoke filled halls and down stairways which had begun to burn, in order to spread the alarm among those who were asleep in the dormitories.

Drew's Seminary was built over sixty years ago and was known as a very exclusive school. Many of the girls had to flee in their nightclothes, and lost clothing and jewels valued at thousands of dollars.

The main seminary building was 200 feet long and four stories high, and it was connected with St. James Memorial Hall by a bridge. The origin of the fire, which started in Memorial Hall and spread with great rapidity, is a mystery. On Monday night the students gave an entertainment entitled "A Japanese Wedding," which included a mock ceremony, followed by a fair and supper. Many of the girls were in costume and the stage and auditorium were decorated with Japanese lanterns and flags. It is conjectured that the fire may have been started by one of the lanterns, which had not been extinguished, although the teachers say the hall was in entire darkness when they retired.

D. H. Hanaburg, the principal, was awakened by Miss Frances Doughty, a teacher, who discovered the blaze and spread the alarm. Attired in her nightgown and accompanied by Miss Martha D. Hanaburg, a daughter of the principal, she ran from the room. Miss Hanaburg broke open the doors of three rooms occupied by students and shook them until they awoke. Then she ran to the fourth floor and aroused her brother Emory Hanaburg. Several girls narrowly escaped injury when two big water tanks fell to the basement with a great crash. A number of girls became hysterical and would have jumped from the windows, but that they were restrained and were led down the three flights of stairs and through smoke that almost suffocated them.

Miss Gertrude Johnson got three girls out of the school, and then she went back and packed her suit case. Carmel has no fire department, and though villagers, students and teachers formed a bucket line they could not put out the fire.

**The Craignek Floated.**

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., May 3.—The stranded steamer Craignek was floated at 10:45 o'clock to-night. She is supposed to have left for the Delaware Breakwater.

**Conservatives Win in Essex County Club.**

ORANGE, N. J., May 3.—At the Essex County Country Club, in West Orange, to-night the regular conservative ticket was elected without opposition.

**Craving for Liquor.**

Positively removed in from 24 to 48 hours.